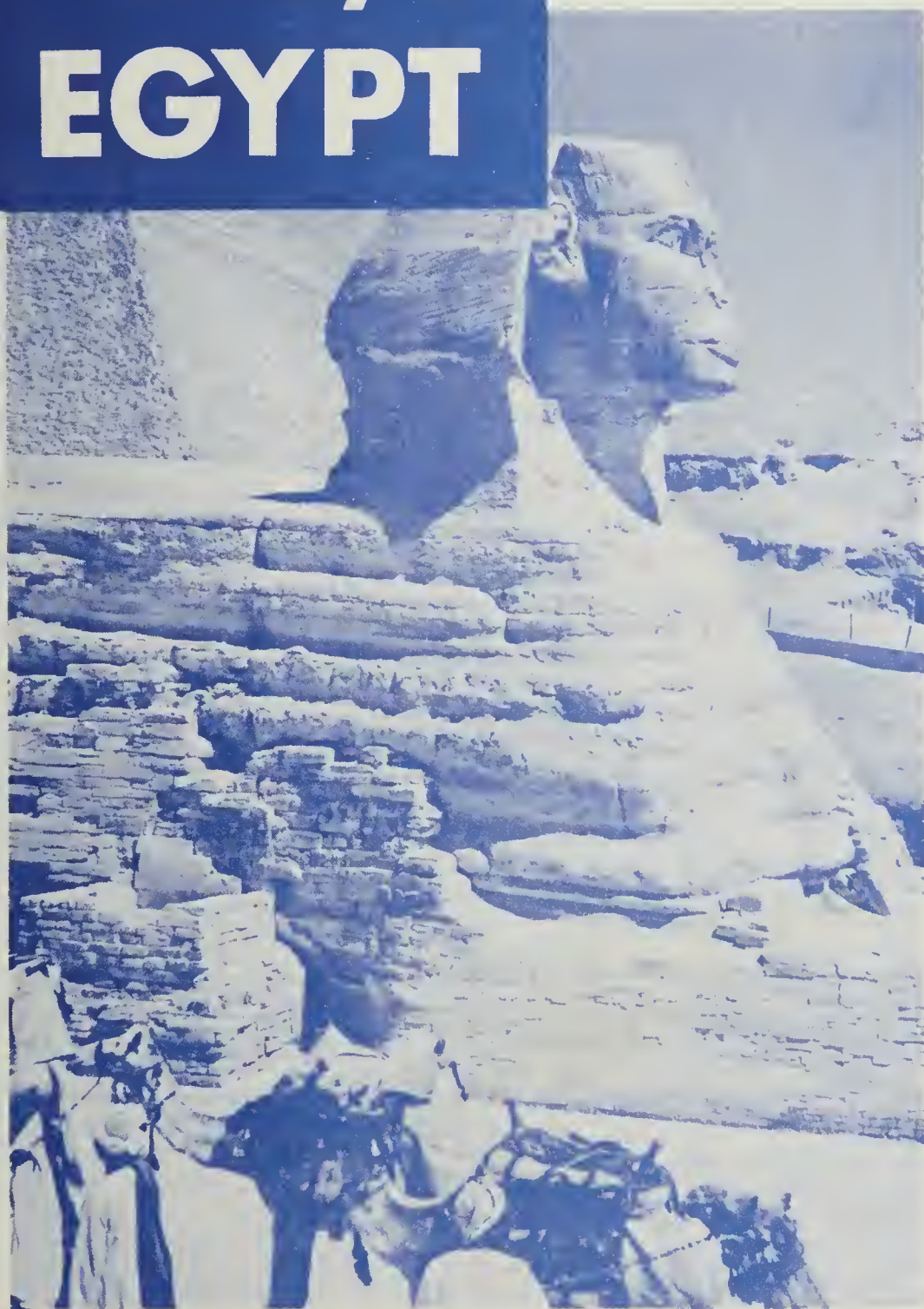


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# Today's EGYPT



*A New Day for Agriculture*  
**THE AGRARIAN REFORM**



# EGYPT'S AGRARIAN REFORM LAW

## SUMMARY

### THE PURPOSE

The Agrarian Reform Law was enacted to attack Egypt's most serious and fundamental problem: The failure of the National production to provide suitable living standards for the steadily growing population. The law is designed to do this in two ways:

1. —By opening the way to decent living standards for the 16 ½ million people who depend upon agriculture for their livelihood.
2. —By stimulating industry through the diversion of investments from land speculation to productive enterprise.

### THE NECESSITY

Basic to Egypt's difficulties is the fact that 97 per cent of its land area is either uninhabitable or thus-far-unreclaimed desert. This means that the Nation's 22 million people are crowded into 13,500 square miles, or about the same as the combined areas of the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Moreover, 75 per cent of the people derive their living from farming, which requires *space*. Yet, there are only 6,000,000 acres under cultivation, because Egypt's lands are fertile only a few miles on either side of the Nile, and in the Delta at the mouth of the river.

And, the distribution of this limited acreage has been fantastically out of balance because of a feudalistic system which prevailed for many generations. Thus, when Farouk was ousted in July, 1952, there were about 2,600,000 landowners. But, 70 per cent of them —or 1,800,000 landowners— held an average of *less than ½ acre apiece*, compared with an average of 11 ¾ acres in the Netherlands, and 65 acres in the United States. Obviously, these people were kept in a state of almost incredible poverty.

At the same time, people with money to invest were using it to bid against each other for more and more land. The twin results were (a) that land prices continued to spiral far above their true value, so that farm tenants and laborers were squeezed in order that the price-inflated land would still yield a profit on its crops; and (b) little or no money was left for investment in industry and commerce, which would provide jobs and increase national income.

If Egypt were to move out of the stagnating feudalism which had been impoverishing the great majority of its people, and retarding its broad-scale development, it was obvious that prompt and effective action had to be taken.

## THE NEW LAW

In essence, the Agrarian Reform Law provides that no one may hold more than 200 acres for farming purposes; and that each land holder must directly farm the land himself, or rent it directly to a tenant farmer under specified conditions. Up to 100 additional acres may be held if the owner has children. Additional land must be sold to the Government at varying rates.

## THE LAW OF CONFISCATION

The Agrarian Reform Law did not provide for confiscation of lands of the then-royal family, *although most of these lands had been obtained by confiscation*. However, with the discovery that members of this family had begun smuggling large fortunes out of the country, in direct violation of the Foreign Currency Restriction Law —*passed while Farouk was King*— the Law of Confiscation was passed, and the property of the former royal family was seized. Provision was made for members of the family who wanted to remain in Egypt, and who lacked funds for their maintenance.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Henceforward, the land of Egypt will be used for the good of *all* Egyptians. Land is to be equitably distributed, and all of the other essentials are programmed: reclamation, better farming equipment, better seeds, better farming techniques. *And*, millions of dollars, which formerly were used for land speculation, will now go





*Egyptians must wage a constant battle against the enroachment of sand, blown in from the vast desert on both sides of the narrow strip of arable land that runs along the life-giving Nile River.*

into factories, transportation, mining, useful business, commercial buildings, homes and other enterprises which will move Egypt forward. For the first time in generations, Egypt can look to the future with hope and confidence.

## **BACKGROUND FOR FEUDALISM: THE THEFT OF THE LAND**

To understand how the feudal system was perpetuated in Egypt until 1951, it is necessary to know how control of this great Nation fell into the hands of the Mohammed Ali family.

Mohammed Ali was an adventurer from Albania, who joined the Ottoman campaign in Egypt in 1803. Mohammed was an ambitious officer, and by adroit political maneuvering, had himself named the Ottoman representative in Egypt. By 1805, he had assumed the title

of Viceroy. Imposing an iron-handed rule over the Egyptians, and eliminating all opposition, he shortly became supreme master of the country.

As soon as Mohammed Ali gained control of Egypt, he began the wholesale confiscation of thousands upon thousands of acres of rich, arable land. Those who opposed the confiscation died by the swords of Mohammed's agents. Mohammed Ali did not even engage in the pretense of paying compensation for the confiscated lands.

Thus were Egypt's best and richest lands stolen. They were then presented as gifts from Mohammed Ali to his relatives and friends.

Under Mohammed Ali's rule, forced labor was the only contract between the land owner and the farmer. The few who were permitted to operate their farms were required to pay extremely high taxes. Whether a farmer worked on a large estate as a farm hand or tilled his own soil, conditions were oppressive.

The pressure on these people, whose families were on the verge of starvation, while their food crops were taken from them and sent to market, proved intolerable. It remained so under Mohammed Ali's successors for 150 years: a vicious system of poverty for the many, and plenty for a few.

In 1917, a change in the succession occurred. Sultan Hussein Kamel, who had ruled during the first three years of World War I, had developed a dislike for the British. So the latter transferred the dynasty to a poor member of the family, Sultan Ahmad Fouad, a great-grandson of Mohammed Ali. Sultan Fouad was not a favored member of his family. Thus, he began his reign as a penniless monarch. But he was familiar with the techniques of his great-grandfather Mohammed Ali. When he died in 1936, he left to his son, Farouk I, and his five daughters, a fortune estimated at no less than \$3,000,000, plus large palaces, quantities of jewelry, and 30,000 acres of land. This did not include the acreage passed on to his other relatives.

Farouk I assumed office in 1936, upon the death of his father. He carried forward and expanded his father's land-grabbing policies, and added techniques of his own.

For example, if Farmer A owned 15 acres of rich farm land that Farouk wanted to "buy," his agents appeared on the scene and offered a very low price for it. If the farmer refused to sell, the



*An ox, walking in circles, moves this crude water wheel, used for centuries on the farms of Egypt. So small were the farms, and so impoverished the farmers, that machinery was out of the question.*

agents initiated their "persuading" tactics: There would be threats of physical violence. This failing, the farmer might find himself in jail on a trumped-up charge. If he continued to be stubborn, he might find himself in jail frequently.

Should these tactics fail to convince the farmer, more drastic measures were taken. By way of illustration: All farms along an irrigation ditch lift water to their lands according to a fixed schedule. Each area takes its water on a certain day of the week. During "negotiation" periods, workers at a Farouk farm at the head of the irrigation ditch would pump out water every day, or at sufficiently frequent intervals so that the particular farmer with whom they were negotiating would get no water at all. When the farmer saw his crops withering, he usually sold — at Farouk's price.



If Farouk had no land on the same irrigation ditch as the farmer, his agents resorted to the simple expedient of setting fire to the crops at night. This was also an effective method of persuasion.

Probably the most fantastic method used by Farouk's agents was one adopted when the farmer's land was contiguous to one of the royal farms. All other methods failing, Farouk's agents resorted to outright thievery. The farmer in Egypt usually lives in a village near his acreage — seldom on the farm. So, at night, a crew of Farouk's men would go on the farmer's land. Buildings and land markers were torn down and removed. The entire area was plowed. The land was flooded. The next morning, when the farmer returned, his farm was "gone." It was all part of the King's farm. Overnight the farmer had become a landless, unemployed worker!

Another method Farouk employed to add to his holdings was that of reclamation. Farouk would allocate a vast desert area to his personal estate (without obtaining Government permission or paying for the land). Then the reclamation project began. To reclaim the land as rapidly as possible, so revenue-producing crops could be grown quickly, Farouk agents simply used all the water they needed, even if this left no water for the nearby small property owners. Of course, they could not complain that their lands were being dried up and their crops ruined. Complain to whom? Farouk? His agents would merely suggest that these farmers also had better sell — at a "reasonable" price.

Thus, by theft, intimidation, and other methods, the Mohammed Ali family and their friends came into control of vast holdings in Egypt's best farm areas, in all amounting to about one million acres or one-sixth of the cultivated land of Egypt. Within a comparatively few years, Farouk, alone, owned and controlled no less than 100,000 acres!

It is estimated that the Mohammed Ali family's total wealth in 1951 ranged from \$42,000,000 to \$58,000,000. These figures do not include Ex-King Farouk's fortune, which is estimated at \$28,000,000.

From 1917, when penniless Fouad I came into power, until 1952, when his son Farouk I was deposed, a fantastically large fortune had been accumulated by this one branch of the family alone — at the expense of the Egyptian people.

In addition to the large acreage controlled by the Mohammed Ali family, some 1,246,873 acres were owned by 2,148 other large land holders. It should be pointed out that among these land holders





*The same kind of ox-drawn plow used thousands of years ago in the days of the Pharaohs is still used by many farmers. But, the New Regime is replacing it with modern machinery on cooperative farms.*

were individuals who had acquired the properties by legal methods, without resort to violence, threats, or other unmoral or immoral means.

Nevertheless, these large holdings meant absentee ownership, and this, in turn, meant a continuation of the feudal system.

**FOR SPECULATORS: WEALTH;**

**FOR THE FARMERS: POVERTY.**

Adding to the difficulties besetting the farm workers and the continuance of a feudal system, was the fact that during both World War I and World War II a new class of owners developed among people who had suddenly accumulated large fortunes during the

wartime boom periods. Land became an especially attractive investment because of the high levels to which crop prices had risen. The older, wealthy landowners and the *nouveau riche* engaged in a contest for land: not for uncultivated lands to be reclaimed, for that might be risking capital, but for land already developed. Naturally, land prices skyrocketed. And the new land owners, in trying to obtain a return proportional to the inflated prices paid for the land, raised the rent. The result: The new landowners obtained their high rents; the tenants and farm workers lowered their standards of living again.

Some of the landowners protected their investment by making certain that they and not the tenant farmers would receive all profits. A simple device was employed: Blank contracts were issued. The helpless tenant was compelled to sign a contract in which the rental price of the land was left blank. When the crops were sold, the landowner filled in the rental price. Whether the crops sold for low prices or high, the owner made sure that the rental fee was sufficient to absorb all of the tenant's profits.

The evils of the feudal system continued, although patriotic Egyptian leaders tried to effect changes. During Farouk's regime, there were members of parliament who, though themselves financially independent, recognized the injustice of the feudal system in Egypt. Several members introduced bills designed to curb the large landholders and to return the lands to the farmers.

Among these leaders was Senator Mohammed Khattab who proposed the first Agrarian Reform Law in 1945. This proposal was defeated and the Senator lost favor with the Palace. In 1950, Ibrahim Shoukry proposed another Agrarian Reform Law which, if passed, would have required all land owners to reduce their holding to no more than 50 acres. A well-known newspaper publisher as well as statesman, Mr. Shoukry proposed his bill despite the fact that his father and he both would have had to sell their own land holdings under such a law.

In 1951, Dr. Ahmed Hussein, then Minister of Social Affairs, introduced a minimum wage law for agricultural and industrial workers. Needless to say, Farouk's forces again did not permit either bill to pass.



*Egyptian cotton is the world's finest, and one of the aims of Agrarian Reform is to increase its production by modern methods and to enable small farmers to share in the financial benefits.*

## **THE NEW REGIME; RESTITUTION OF LAND**

A small group of Egyptian Army leaders led the revolution that deposed King Farouk, on July 23, 1952. The protector of feudalism was banished from the country.

On September 9, 1952, the Agrarian Reform Law was passed. It was designed to correct the inequities resulting from the wholesale land confiscation that was carried out for a century and a half by the Mohammed Ali Dynasty.

Briefly, the Agrarian Reform Law provides:

1. No land holder may own more than 200 acres (feddans)<sup>1</sup> of land for farming purposes.

<sup>1</sup> A "feddan" is equal to 1.038 acres.



## FEUDALISM IN ACTION

On the opposite page, a concise and revealing story of feudalism in action is presented by a statistical table, showing ownership of land under cultivation in Egypt in 1947. These are *official* figures, compiled by the then Royal Government.

As the footnote of the table shows, there were 16,500,000 Egyptians who depended upon agriculture for their livelihood in 1947. *But:* only about 2,660,000 were owners of land under cultivation.

And how was the land distributed? The story told by the table is nothing less than shocking:

Nearly 2,000,000 people owned *1 feddan or less*.

Approximately 322,000 owned *only 1 to 2 feddans*.

And, roughly 264,000 people owned *only 2 to 5 feddans*.

This means that more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million Egyptians — or 94 *per cent* of the total landholders — held only 34 *per cent* of Egypt's total cultivated area.

But, look at the table and notice the extreme contrast with the other end of the agricultural ownership scale:

Less than 12,000 persons owned a total of more than 2,000,000 feddans, or *approximately the same as the other  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million owners*. There were 188 wealthy owners who held more than 1,000 acres apiece; and, of these, 61 held a total of 277,000 acres, or an average of *more than 4,500 acres each*.

Putting it another way, if we add up the first four classes, owning up to five feddans, we find that 94 *per cent* of the owners held only 34 *per cent* of the land; the other 6 *per cent* held all the rest.

At the extreme top,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 *per cent* of the owners held 36 *per cent* of all the land under cultivation.

In between the extremes of wealth and poverty were what might be called the middle group, owning from 5 to 50 feddans. They numbered roughly 143,000 persons, and their total holdings were little more than 1,700,000 feddans. Holding, among them, 30 *per cent* of the cultivated land, they constituted only 5 *per cent* of the total number of owners.

The table, then, tells a depressing story of an oppressed people: nearly 2 million people without enough land to provide decent subsistence for their families; another half-million for whom it could be said only that they were not as unfortunate as the others. At the other end, swollen estates gained in most cases by confiscation during generations of feudal tyranny.

This was feudalism at work. This is what the new regime has determined to change.

<i>No. Feddans* Owned by In- dividuals</i>	<i>Number of Owners</i>	<i>Per Cent of Total Owners</i>	<i>Total Area in Feddans</i>	<i>Per Cent of Total Area</i>
$\frac{1}{2}$ or less	1,401,385	52.6	420,978	7.0
$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1	<u>519,236</u>	<u>19.5</u>	<u>361,394</u>	<u>6.0</u>
Sub total 1 or less	1,920,621	72.1	782,352	13.0
1 to 2	322,260	12.1	454,454	8.0
2 to 5	<u>264,263</u>	<u>10.0</u>	<u>756,015</u>	<u>13.0</u>
Sub total 1 to 5	586,523	22.1	1,210,469	21.0
5 to 10	80,996	3.0	540,821	9.0
10 to 50	<u>62,777</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>1,233,619</u>	<u>21.0</u>
Sub total 5 to 50	143,273	5.3	1,774,540	30.0
50 to 1,500 and over	11,826	0.5	2,194,366	36.0
TOTAL	2,662,243**	100.0	5,961,727	100.0

\* A feddan is slightly more than 1 acre; actually: 1.038 acres.

\*\* Although 16,500,000 Egyptians depended upon agriculture for their livelihood, less than 16 percent of them owned any land.

2. Every land holder must directly farm the land himself or rent it directly to a tenant farmer under conditions expressly stipulated in the Law. The rental rates are determined by a formula included in the law. This regulation protects both the land owner and the tenant, and eliminates profiteering.

3. Minimum wage scales are provided for agricultural workers.

4. Cooperatives, of various kinds are to be established (under the Law) to provide assistance to small farmers who otherwise would be unable to take advantage of the Government's land program.

5. An individual owning more than 200 acres of land has the right to retain 250 acres, if he has one child, and 300 acres if he has two or more children. He must assign these lands to his children as heirs.

6. Land in excess of 200 acres must be sold to the Government at varying rates. These rates are designed to provide fair compensation for the lands purchased.

7. The Egyptian Government pays for the land in Government bonds at 3 per cent interest. These bonds are negotiable under certain conditions.

8. The law applied to *all* land holders.

The Agrarian Reform Law is comprehensive, providing for practically every possible contingency. The above described highlights, however, define the basic provisions.

It will be noted that in point No. 8, the past tense is used: "This law *applied* to all land holders." Significance of the past tense in this sentence is this:

Despite the unscrupulous methods used by the Mohammed Ali family to wrest control of the land from its rightful owners, the present regime passed the Agrarian Reform Law *without* confiscating the lands of the ex-royal family (which had obtained most of the lands by outright confiscation). The law provided payment for all lands, whether held by members of the ex-royal family or ordinary citizen.

Meanwhile, however, members of the ex-royal family (numbering some 300 to 400 individuals) were violating the Foreign Currency Restrictions Law (Law No.80 of 1947) of the Egyptian Government. *Note that this law was passed in 1947, when Farouk was still in power.* This law and subsequent amendments forbid the export of



more than 120 pounds (\$344)<sup>2</sup> by Egyptians going abroad, A permit must be obtained for amounts in excess of this sum.

(This law is similar to those enacted by many Nations in Europe and elsewhere today in an effort to keep their national economy stable.)

The members of the Mohammed Ali family knew this law well. Yet, as soon as the present regime assumed office, they began smuggling their large fortunes out of Egypt. Naturally, removal of great amounts of monies, jewelry, and other valuable possessions threatened to upset Egypt's economic position.

In addition, members of the Mohammed Ali family were conducting an even more dangerous campaign to defeat the new regime. This was the "scorched earth" policy. A number of the Mohammed Ali family ordered their farms abandoned: machinery was permitted to lie idle. The farmers engaged on the lands were dismissed, adding to Egypt's unemployment problem.

The present regime could not permit these conditions to continue in a country where every square foot of cultivated ground is precious, where pasture lands and forests are unknown, and the battle against the desert must be waged vigorously and constantly.

So, in an effort to recover a portion of the fortunes smuggled abroad, and to recover the abandoned farms that were fast becoming wastelands again, the present Government passed the Confiscation Law on November 8, 1953. This law affects some 350 members of the Mohammed Ali family. It provides for:

1. "The recovery of the peoples' fortune and property from the Mohammed Ali family by Government confiscation."

2. Appointment of a Government Committee to establish adequate monthly allowances and private homes for members of this family who might be in need of assistance.

That is the present situation insofar as the ex-royal family is concerned. Many members of the family illegally smuggled out vast quantities of money, jewels, and other valuables. Thus, for the most part, they are still financially independent. However, in event a few members of the ex-royal family want to stay in Egypt, and do not have funds sufficient to maintain themselves, a special commission will establish monthly allowances for these members

<sup>2</sup> One Egyptian pound equals \$2.87, as of February 1954.

so that they can be assured a good standard of living for the rest of their lives and can continue living in their town houses as they have before the new Government assumed control.

In every respect, the present Government has made every effort to be as just and as considerate toward members of the ex-royal family as any fair-minded individual could possibly expect.

It is interesting to note, further, that all the lands and monies obtained through the Confiscation Law will be used for raising the standard of living of the people of Egypt. These funds will be used to erect new schools, hospitals, and social centers in various sections of the country.

Under the new regime, raising the standard of living is more than a phrase with which to attempt to placate a restless, oppressed people; it is a goal for new hope, and better conditions in the life of modern Egypt.

## **HOW THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW WORKS**

The present regime applies the law to all classes of land-owners. There is no "favored class."

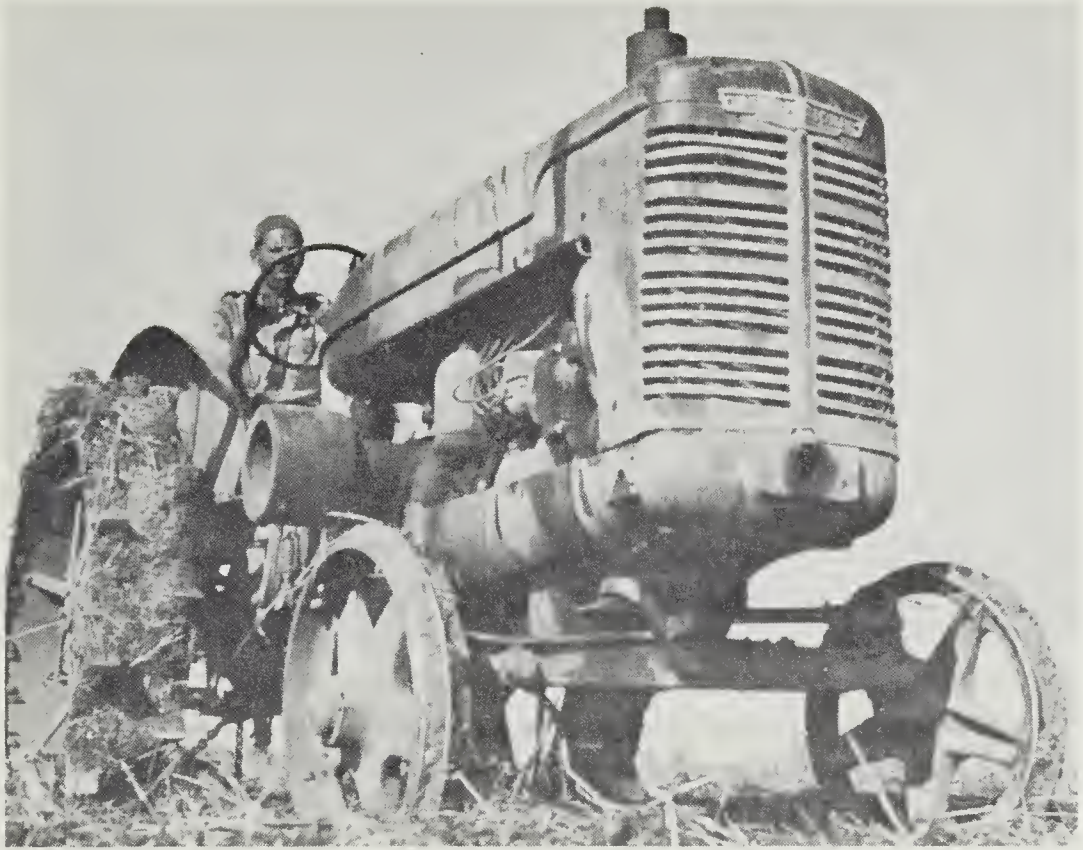
How true this is, is indicated by the actions taken under the Agrarian Reform Law. Ibrahim Shoukry, who sponsored an early Agrarian Reform Law, was himself required to sell some lands. Ali Maher, the first Premier under the new regime and presently the head of the committee drafting a constitution for the New Government, was also required to sell some land. Mustapha Fathy, Permanent Under Secretary of Public Works, sold large acreages to comply with the new law.

There are many other examples of outstanding leaders in Egypt today who are working to develop a system of justice and equality for all, and who themselves must often sacrifice personal possessions to comply with the laws now being promulgated.

Under the present regime, nepotism and favoritism and personal accumulation of wealth by illegal or immoral methods is a thing of the past.

Briefly, this is how the lands are being re-distributed:

Since Mohammed Ali and his successors either kept no records or burned the few records they maintained, it is virtually impossible to return the stolen lands and "purchased" acreage to the original owners. There are one or two exceptions in which the acreage taken



*Heretofore, only the large landowners could afford the modern machinery which permits efficient farm operations. This tractor is one of many now being put into service by the new cooperatives.*

by the Mohammed Ali family is known. In these cases, restitution or adequate compensation is being made to the families of the original owners.

The majority of acreage involved under the Agrarian Reform Law now falls into two general categories: (1) The lands owned in the name of members of the Mohammed Ali family have been confiscated by the Government and will be sold in accordance with the regulations of the Agrarian Reform Law. (2) The excess lands owned by large land holders will be purchased by the Government for a price based on tax assessments, and in turn sold to farmers on a long-term payment basis.

(Details of the redistribution of Egypt's farmlands are contained in the text of the Agrarian Reform Law, a copy of which may be obtained by writing to the Press Department, Egyptian Embassy, Washington, D. C.).



The Agrarian Reform Law was drafted by a group of expert agriculturalists, economists, sociologists, and other Egyptian specialists. It represents a carefully developed, all-inclusive plan. No phase of agriculture was forgotten in the preparation of the law. As a result, it is equitable to those who must sell their excess acreage and to those who want to purchase it.

The detailed plans of distribution take into account the best interests of the people and the best interest of the land.

Under the law, scientific research organizations and certain benevolent associations (charity organizations) may own more than 200 acres.

Reclamation is encouraged by permitting holders of fallow or desert land to own as much of this type of land as they wish to attempt to reclaim. Such owners may hold the land for 25 years, thus permitting them to reclaim the land and then farm it for a sufficient number of years to enable them to regain their investment and, also, make a reasonable profit.

In selling the acquired acreage, the Government stipulates to whom and how the land shall be sold. Under certain conditions, agricultural college graduates are favored. Such agriculturalists are given priority, for example, in the purchase of orchards, which, obviously, require technical skill to maintain and develop.

Similarly, people who live near and will actually farm the land being sold, are given first call. Next come farmers with the greatest number of children, and so on.

To prevent feudalism from arising again, the law prevents an owner from renting his land to anyone other than a person who is a farmer and will actually till the soil (this eliminates brokers). The farmer in turn may sub-let a portion of the land only to another farmer. But the conditions under which farms are let to tenants are spelled out, so that the owner cannot gouge the farmer, and he in turn can not take advantage of the owner.

Since one of the basic objectives of the Agrarian Reform Law is to eliminate the feudal system which enslaved Egyptians for so many years, naturally, the objective is to return the lands primarily to farmers. But the farmers of Egypt, having been little better than forced laborers for so many years, have had no opportunity to accumulate cash savings. To accommodate such people, the law provides that a person purchasing land from the Government may do so without a down payment. He may have up to 30 years to pay for



*In Egypt, farmers live in villages adjoining their farms, instead of on the farms, as in the United States. This is typical of the new housing which is making life richer for Egyptian tillers of the soil.*

the land. The purchase price is the price actually paid to the land owner, plus a flat 15 per cent for distribution and other expenses. A 3 per cent interest rate is charged annually on the balance of principal due.

Now, every farmer has an opportunity — without a down payment — to buy his own small farm.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Redistribution of lands to the people does not solve Egypt's farm problem. This is only the first step.

It is well to recall that all problems which have confronted Egypt for so many years finally resolve themselves into the basic one, Egypt's No. 1 "headache:" that is, the failure of national production to provide the increasing population with a reasonable standard of living.

Agriculture, as one of the principal producers in Egypt, has — with other producing industries — failed to meet the needs of the people. In postwar years, Egypt has been importing a considerable per centage of foodstuffs.

For the immediate future, plans are underway to introduce better seeds, better equipment, and better techniques to the various farming areas. Studies are being directed toward the development of improved varieties of cotton — Egypt's major agricultural commodity, rice, wheat, and hybrid corn. The aim is to increase both production and quality.

In the field of animal husbandry, the Government is conducting an improvement campaign by introducing proven sires into the farm regions. High milk producers will be brought in to replace the present low yielders.

Dairy cooperatives are being formed to encourage farmers to produce greater quantities of clean milk of high quality and, at the same time, provide farmers with a greater income by facilitating marketing of the product.

Cooperative marketing centers are being established for poultry, eggs, wool, and other animal products, so that the farmers may reduce their costs and obtain a better price for their goods.

The use of machinery is being fostered as a means of increasing farm production. Public cooperative and private machinery servicing centers are rapidly being established. More and more farmers will have the opportunity to rent equipment which, individually, they can not afford to purchase.

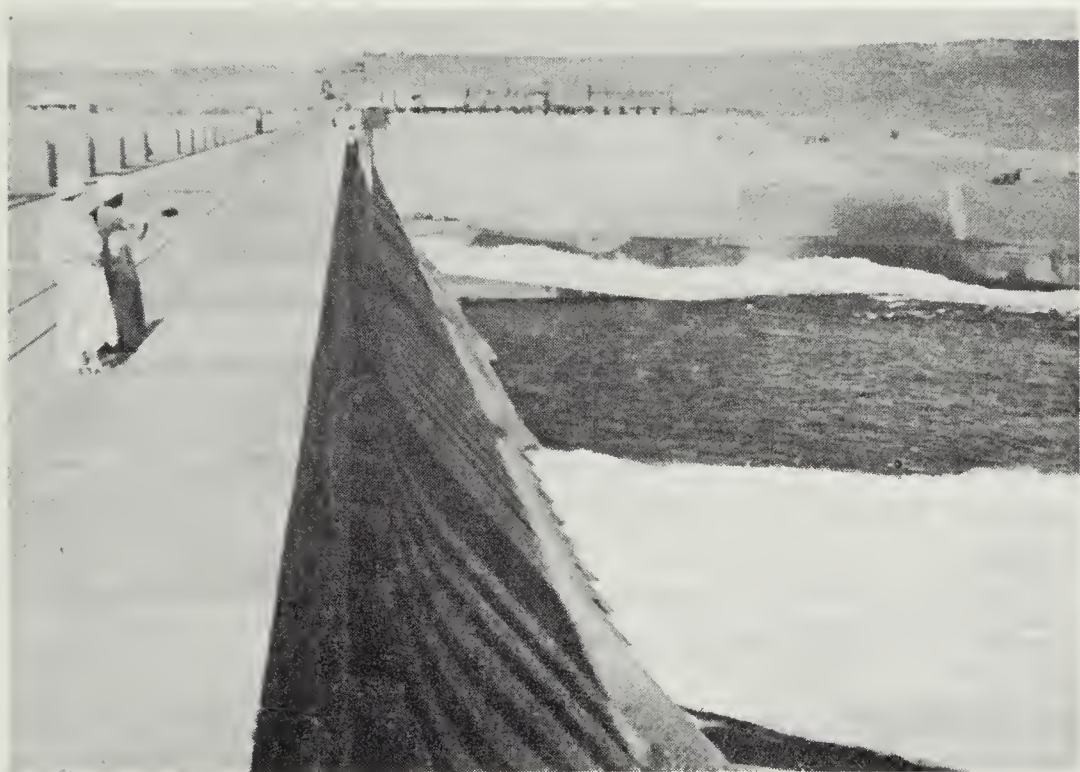
Meanwhile, working on long-range plans, the Government will conduct water surveys, plan reclamation projects, institute training programs for farmers, and sponsor agricultural research areas where further improvement in farming methods and types of crops used will be studied.

One of the long-range programs involves a reclamation project of great magnitude. To provide the people with more farming land, Egypt must have more water. To this end, the Government is planning the construction of one of the world's largest dams, the "High Dam" of Upper Egypt, near Aswan and 5 miles south of the present Aswan Dam. This new dam will cost about \$600,000,000. It will enable Egypt to add about 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 acres to the land under cultivation, and to produce electric power for new industries.

## **FOR EGYPT'S INDUSTRY: FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

As stated at the beginning, the Agrarian Reform Law aims at





*The flood waters of the Nile have always been the source of moisture for Egypt's limited agricultural lands. More dams, like this at Aswan, are planned to permit storage of water for year-around use.*

the improvement of agriculture *and* industry. It will achieve the latter because *land* is no longer a possible outlet for investment, except up to 200 acres. This means that idle money will have to seek other channels if it is to yield income.

*There will be many such channels.* They will not only offer the opportunity for attractive and legitimate profit; but they will move Egypt forward toward the achievement of increased national production, and consequently, constantly improving standards of living.

The Permanent Council for the Development of National Production is working intensively to encourage projects in a wide variety of endeavor: land reclamation, power development, exploration for oil and other minerals, stimulation of manufacturing, home and apartment building and many other industrial and commercial enterprises.

*These* are the fields into which investment funds will now move in Egypt — now that the economically non-productive field of land speculation has been closed.

## MUCH YET TO DO —

### BUT A WORTHY START

The Agrarian Reform law is another form of revolution in a land steeped in feudalism for many, many years. It will not be easy to return the land to the farmers. It will not be done overnight. The Government hopes to accomplish the work within five years. But there will be many obstacles, and many new problems will arise.

Not all the farmers will understand how to take advantage of the regulations. And during the period that the lands are being parceled out, there undoubtedly will be failures as well as successes.

The shifting of investment money from land speculation to productive investment will not be easy, either. There will be resistance.

Some difficulties are to be expected. These will be in the nature of growing pains for a young Government, one dedicated to the welfare of the people.

The social and political effects of such new measures as the Agrarian Reform are widespread and of major significance. Now for the first time in hundreds of years, every farmer can look forward to becoming a landowner, beholden only to himself. Now, for the first time in many years, each farmer can and will have a voice in his own Government by direct voting privileges.

The Agrarian Reform is only one of the major forward steps undertaken in behalf of all Egyptians by a Government dedicated to the interests of the Nation as a whole.

What is significant, what is important, is that a start has been made in the right direction. Now, for the first time in generations the present looks good for the Egyptian farmer and the potential urban wage earner.

The future holds prospects for even better times ahead for himself, his children, and his country.

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